REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 4-22 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Section 6 (Page 6) of the Office Action indicated that claims 4-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but held that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, this objection is not fully understood since claims 4-6 and 8 were already rewritten in independent form in the Amendment/Response filed October 30, 2006. Claim 15 is also written in independent form. All other pending claims depend directly or indirectly form one of these allowable independent claims. All pending claims are thus allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Watari et al (U.S. '081, hereinafter "Watari"). Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Watari in view of *In re Harza* in view of Sumizawa. Claims 1-3 have been canceled. The above-noted rejections are therefore deemed moot.

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Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYERC.

B_v:

Raymond Y. Mah Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:lmw 901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor Arlington, VA 22203-1808

Telephone: (703) 816-4044 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100